

Message Text

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17
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 IO-13

OMB-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SSM-03 /084 W
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P R 291059Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 273
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7428

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, PLO
SUBJECT: SYRIANS MEET WITH PLO AND CHRISTIAN DELEGATIONS IN DAMASCUS
TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. LOCAL AP STRINGER LOUIS FARER TOLD EMBOFF EVERNING OCT. 28
THAT FONMIN KHADDAM HAD HELD MEETINGS THAT DAY WITH PHALANGIST
CHAMOUNIST, AND PLO (ABU MAYZAR) DELEGATIONS
IN DAMASCUS TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT ON THEIR ACTIVITIES
IN SOUTH LEBANON. FARER CLAIMED CHRISTIANS HAD EXPRESSED
CONCERN SYRIA SHIFTING ITS ALLIANCES IN LEBANON AND COULD NO
LONGER BE FULLY TRUSTED. KHADDAM, HOWEVER, ADVISED THEM SYRIA
ONLY TRYING TO EFFECT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PLO AND ASSERTED THIS
IN CHRISTOAN AS WELL AS SYRIAN INTEREST. KHADDAM IN TURN
ADVISED CHRISTIANS TO LIMIT THEIR DEALINGS WITH ISRAELIS IN
SOUTH.

2. ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF SYRIAN ASSISTANCE TO FACILITATE
RETURN OF SOME PLO FORCES TO SOUTH LEBANON, FARES CLAIMED
REPORTS TRUE. HE SAID HIS SOURCES TOLD HIM SARG RATIONALE
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WAS TO PERMIT THESE FORCES TO ADVANCE AS FAR AS MARJAYOUN

IN ORDER TO REINFORCE PLO POSITIONS THERE TO PREVENT ANY MORE MASSACRES IN SOUTH. HE SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO CROSS BORDER AND WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY SYRIA, BUT PLO PRESENCE AROUND MARJAYOUN WOULD REMAIN "SWORD HANGING IN AIR" FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE SIMILAR TO SITUATION ON GOLAN.

3. COMMENT: FARES REMARKS SUGGEST SYRIANS INTENDING TO CREATE BALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH, BUT AT SAME TIME TO EXERT CONTROL OVER PLO GROUPS TO PREVENT RESUMPTION OF CROSS-BORDER COMMANDOS ACTIVITIES.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: greeneet
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